MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

November 2017 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held on November 16, 2017, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. Program for the evening is the Semiannual Auction with a robust listing of desirable lots.

President:	Justin Perrault	**Vice President:**	Jim Heinrich
Secretary:	John Bleidorn	**Treasurer:**	Lee Hartz
Sgt. at Arms:	Jeff Gaffke	**Trustee '15-'17:**	Tom Dallmann
Trustee '17-'19:	Dave Hunsicker	**Trustee '16-'18:**	Gary Bieringer
Librarian:	Joe Paonessa	**Newsletter editor:**	Leon Saryan

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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). Our annual coin show is held in October.

November Coin of the Month: Crème de la Crème!! Tonight we have an NGC certified ULTRA CAMEO proof MS69 Sacajawea dollar in a nice plastic capsule. Figuring that the certification cost was at least $25, plus the red book catalogs an uncertified proof MS65 at $12, you'll see this is a real bargain. Add this beautiful certified coin to your collection for a starting bid of only $12, the red book catalog value.

November 2017 MNS President's Message

As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, we have a very full list of auction items to run through at the upcoming meeting. This will leave us with very limited time for any show and tell, so this portion of our meeting will unfortunately have to be cut for this month. However, please bring as much as possible to show at the December meeting, since we will have plenty of time during our holiday party.

Also at the next meeting, our election committee should have a full report on the slate of candidates for the 2018 year. These names will be published in the December newsletter and then be put to a vote.

You will also notice that the calendar in this newsletter has turned the page for the new year. I am hoping to get many activities filled in for the coming months, so please let me know if you have a presentation topic in mind.

Our annual banquet at Alioto's was enjoyed by all, and Tom Casper gave a very informative presentation on historic Milwaukee postcards. I could tell that many of them were like a walk down memory lane for the members. There were twenty-four members or guests present at the banquet, so a little smaller than in years past. Jim H. and his wife were unable to emcee the banquet due to a previous commitment, but somehow we managed just fine. Everyone missed them and we hope they will be able to attend next year!

As Thanksgiving looms on the horizon, I want to wish all of our members a very happy holiday. Personally, I am thankful to have all of you as members of the club.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

Best of Show winner Floyd Aprill receives award from exhibit chairman Gary Bieringer

MN$ 2017-18

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 18:	Officer Inductions
Feb 15:	U.S. Coins Trivia Program hosted by Neil Shafer
March 15:	Open Numismatic Archaeology
April 19:	Open
May 17:	Spring Auction
June 21:	Expanded Show and Tell
July 19:	NO MEETING
Aug 16:	Open
Sept 20:	Open
Oct 18:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 15:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 20:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2018 are $10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to $60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2017 Numismatic Events

December 10	Kenosha Holiday Coin Show Kenosha Union Club 3030 39th Ave. Kenosha, WI 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Feb. 18, 2018	Oshkosh Show, Conv. Center 2 N. Main Street
February 25	Racine Coin Show Roma Lodge, 7130 Spring St. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
March 25	Waukesha CC, New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W. Cleveland Ave.
April 13-14	SSCC Show Crowne Plaza Airport 6401 S. 13th St. Noon-6PM; 10 AM-4 PM
April 14	MNS Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic at SSCC Show, 7 AM-Noon
April 15	Sheboygan CC Show, Kohler
April 25-28	Central States Schaumburg, IL

Refreshment Schedule

Nov:	John Bleidorn
Dec:	Holiday Party
Jan:	Open
Feb:	Open
Mar:	Open
Apr:	Open
May:	Open
Jun:	Open
Jul:	NO MEETING
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Open

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

October 19, 2017

President Justin Perrault called the 983rd meeting of the MNS to order at 7:03pm. There were 26 members and 3 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by: Robin R, Tom C, Pam T, Tom S, Dave H, Neil S, Howard T, Don K, Leon A, Chris K, Julio R.

Coin of the Month: Steve J won the coin of the month, an MS-64 PCGS slabbed 1967 40% silver Kennedy Half with a bid of $15.00.

Raffle: The Raffle prizes were drawn at tonight's meeting.

Show & Tell: Dave H-Greek Numismatic items, John B-eBay Mexican Gold Scam experience, Leon S-Armenian medal discovery on eBay & related postcards, Dave H-Spanish Milled Dollar Copy Certification form & Dime-in-pin, Neil S-Signed Battleship, Watermelon & other copy notes, Tom C-Mega Red Book, Peter J-Lincoln medal & Signed Document, Julio R-Hotel Jerome & White Shark coins, Tom D-China lights shipping & on-site setup story, Tom S-Heritage auction WI banks national bank notes.

Nomination Committee: A new Secretary, Sgt. at Arms, Trustee, and Bourse Chairman are needed.

Treasurer's Report: N/A, Lee is recovering.

Correspondence: N/A

November Auction: Submit your items to Leon S with a description of your items.

MNS Coin Show: Tom C mentioned there was a slight increase in attendance from last year, with rental costs increasing in 2019.

Newsletter: Newsletter articles are always appreciated. Brief reminiscences of great circulation finds, local experiences, etc. are appreciated additions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by John Bleidorn

Editorial

We could use a few short 1-2 page original articles, preferably with color illustrations. This month we have an old article from NUMISMATIST about the extra-leaf Wisconsin quarter. I want to thank Josh Whitehall (the label maker) and Dave Hunsicker (the envelope stamper) without whose help it would be really hard to get this newsletter out to you every month. Thanks, guys!

Scenes from the October 21 MNS Annual Banquet

…and a good time was had by all.

Discovery of a Lifetime

A Tucson collector finds a bumper crop of Wisconsin state quarter varieties in rolls from a local bank.

by Richard Snow

▲ Collector Bob Ford was searching rolls of Wisconsin state quarters for unusual die varieties when he noticed extra leaves on a number of coins. Two varieties surfaced: one with a low leaf (top, left), the other with a high leaf.

COIN PHOTOS: RICHARD SNOW/BRAD ARMSTRONG

FOR 15 YEARS, Bob Ford, a retired highway patrolman in Tucson, Arizona, had occupied his free time by looking through rolls of coins from his bank. He regularly found unusual die varieties and other minor errors, which he sold on eBay®. He also frequented local coin shops, where he sorted through bins of bulk silver and Wheat cents in search of better dates.

On December 11, 2004, Bob stopped by the bank for rolls of Wisconsin state quarters. (All coins distributed in the Tucson area by the Federal Reserve come from the Denver Mint.) Bob had checked four rolls before he noticed extra "leaves" on some of the coins.

Further examination revealed two, distinct varieties. Both had additional leaves, or more properly, "husks," to the lower left of the ear of corn; one was slender and pointed up, the other was wider and curled down. With a few specimens in hand, Bob went to Rob Weiss of Old Pueblo Coin in Tucson.

Rob and his employee, Ben Weinstein, were impressed with what they saw. They tried to get additional information from the Mint, which, it seems, was as dumbfounded as everyone else. Ron Harrigal, the Mint's design, research and development assistant, said in an official statement, "We believe [the leaves] are deep gouges in the coin blanks that did not fully coin out." Apparently the Mint did not notice that the elements in question were raised, not incuse.

The story appeared in the January 10 issue of *Coin World*, just as dealers and collectors were heading for the 50th annual Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Show in Ft. Lauderdale. News of the find hit the front page of the *Arizona Daily Star* on January 11. In the article, Bret Palser, Civil War token specialist at my firm, Eagle Eye Rare Coins, offered $100 for every pair of varieties. That day, Tucson became a city of coin collectors. Everyone started looking through their change, and bank tellers grew weary of customers asking for quarters. It was like a modern-day gold rush.

Another shop in town, Tucson Coin and Autograph, owned by Brett Sadovnick, had been running a promotion in which anyone who brought in canned goods for a local charity received a new Wisconsin quarter. Now he wondered how many variety coins he gave away.

News of additional finds circulated wildly from coin shop to coin shop. At this point, no one knew how many varieties had been produced or what their eventual worth might be. Bret Palser rounded up about 40 sets from area dealers and took them to the FUN Show.

I was vacationing in Florida when I heard the news. Bret called, exhausted. "Rick," he said, "this is amazing. It's huge!" We met up in Ft. Lauderdale the next day, and he eagerly showed me the coins. To say the ▶

▼ The extra leaves (or more correctly, "husks") appear to be more than simple die gouges. Some suspect a Mint employee added them on a whim.

least, I was very impressed. We decided to sell the sets we had for $150 each—maybe we could make enough to pay our show expenses!

Because the quarter varieties were reported just the day before, no one at the show was aware of them. We took the sets around to some of the hobby's top numismatists, including Q. David Bowers of American Numismatic Rarities, David Hall of Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS), Brian Silliman of Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), Mike Faraone and Randy Campbell of ANACS, and J.P. Martin of Independent Coin Grading Service (ICG). Nearly all felt that collectors would be excited about these fascinating, "naked-eye" varieties.

Bowers bought one set, then a second, both of which subsequently were graded by PCGS. We decided to call the varieties "Extra Leaf—High" and "Extra Leaf—Low." (As none of us were raised in corn country, we didn't think to use the more proper description, "Extra Husk.")

When Bret and I returned to Tucson, we made every effort to buy as many sets as we could for $100 each. The owner of a pair we acquired on eBay offered us another 200, which we promptly purchased. As supply dwindled and demand increased, the standard asking price rose to $250 per set, and certified sets brought as much as $1,099. A February 8 story released by the Associated Press fueled the frenzy, and single examples soon were selling from $350 to $800, depending on the variety.

Apparently, no more than 2,000 of either variety were retrieved in Tucson, with a small number of sets found in surrounding areas. If a typical press run on a single die is 200,000 or more, where were all the "Extra Leaf" coins? A teller reportedly went through every quarter roll at his bank and culled 200 sets from a Mint box dated November 29. He found none in boxes dated earlier or later. Nor have solid rolls of either variety been reported. All specimens were found mixed with normal quarters, with the "Low Leaf" variety being slightly more common.

It later was revealed that the total mintage of Wisconsin quarters was the second lowest in the series because the Mint suspended production in December. Could the dies that struck the varieties have been the last ones produced? Without an acceptable Mint response, we can only assume that the errors were caught early in the press run and contributed to the work stoppage in December.

The Mint amended its initial explanation for the varieties, noting that "die gouges" likely were the cause. But the elements' graceful curves and the way they blended with the design suggested some other reason.

In a February 8 statement, Mint officials explained:

> We are aware of the extra leaf-like markings on the reverse of some Wisconsin state quarters that bear the "D" mint mark. The United States Mint is looking into the matter to determine possible causes in the manufacturing process. It is unknown how many of these specific quarters may have been produced. We are not aware of any past instances in the 50 State Quarters® program similar to this. Quality control is a high priority for the United States Mint and will remain so.

Bowers theorized in the February 17 issue of *Coin World* that "two ordinary working dies . . . were enhanced by someone in the employ of the Mint, somewhere along the line between die production and just before final use in the press. A highly skilled person expertly added a botanically correct leaf in the correct position on the design." He suggested this might have been done on a whim, just to see what would happen, "sort of like tossing a bottle with a message into the ocean!"

Alan Herbert, in his *Official Price Guide of Minting Varieties and Errors*, describes varieties of this type as "extra design elements" that were cut, punched or hubbed into the die. Typically the added device is "more than normally required to complete the design." Such die varieties rarely are found in U.S. series. (A close parallel might be the 1982 "No P" Roosevelt dime, although this represents a *missing* design element.)

The cause of the "Extra Leaf" varieties remains a mystery, but that's part of the fun of collecting. The story gave the Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program a big boost, and, for a short time, everyone in the nation was a coin collector. Tucson essentially became a boomtown echoing with the cry, "There's gold in them thar hills." ⊙

MNS November 16, 2017 Auction Catalog

1 Lot of 8 mostly older Canadian Banknotes, $11 face. Minimum bid $8
2 Lot of 7 different political banknotes, LBJ, Clinton, Gore, Nixon, McGovern, etc. MB $2
3 $20 1929 small size note First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee. Minimum bid $22
4 Lot of 2 Milwaukee Brewers financial documents (one for large sum). Minimum bid $1
5 China souvenir banknotes, coins, postcards, map. Minimum bid $2
6 Lot of 20 circulated silver Roosevelt dimes, various dates. Minimum bid $21
7 8 different stock certificates great vignettes: A&P, UOP, Pa RR, Howard Johnson, etc. MB $3
8 Lot of 7 Milwaukee GermanFest pins, all different. Minimum bid $3
9 3 books: ANA Grading guide, Blue Book, Red Book signed by Ken Bressett MB $2
10 Book: Criswell, North American Currency, 1965, great condition, MB $3
11 Lot of 47 Target gift cards, all different, next gen exonumia collectible, sold as one lot.
12 1 Bag of silica gel packs to prevent moisture infiltration in your collection
13 2003 USS Arizona Memorial, Honolulu mint, MB $18
14 1960 US Proof set, small date, catalogs $28. MB $20
15 Boston 1866 two thousand pound exchange note with big IRS rev. stamp
16 Civil War era 1864 check from Milwaukee County Bank
17 Second Ward Savings Bank interest table book 1915
18 Three humorous Milwaukee postcards
19 Trade & Commerce Report of 1891 loaded with business pictures
20 First National Bank of Fond du Lac check 1869 plus others
21 150 years of Marshall & Ilsley Bank book
22 The Three Schusters Stores booklet and charge card plate
23 Memoirs of Milwaukee County 1909 illustrated, 1048 pages
24 Supreme Council Royal Arcanum ribbon 1890 Milwaukee
25 Lot of 33 miscellaneous pins and pin back buttons
26 Check: The First National Bank of Milwaukee, 1865 from a Civil War paymaster
27 Check: Houghton, McCord & Co., Milwaukee, 1876 with 2c imprinted revenue stamp.
28 Book: Bucket Boy, a Milwaukee Legend (local history), reprinted 1992, softcover, 236 pages
29 Book: Coins & Coin Collecting, (foreign coins), 1971, hardcover, 141 pages, DJ
30 Book: Collectible American Coins, 1991, authored by K. Bressett, hardcover, 320 pages, DJ
31 Vintage Coca-Cola glass bottle stamped Milwaukee, WI on bottom
32 Vintage 1933 Wisconsin automobile license plate
33 3 Vintage stock certificates, Astron & Singer Co.
34 US $20 & $1 bills 50% remaining
35 Set of 6 Uncirculated Kennedy Halves 2006 & 2008 P&D, 2009 P, 2010 P
36 Lot of 20 Canadian cents 1964-present
37 BMO Harris zippered bank bag
38 Shredded paper money from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York
39 Cuba & Canada worn rim die coins
40 House on the Rock Carousel token
41 Medal, cu-ni, 40 mm., 2001,. commem, $100 bill, prooflike Unc., MB $5
42 Medal, gold-plated, 50 mm, 2009, commem. $20 bill, 1905, proof, MB $10
43 Medal, gold-plated, 50 mm, 2010, commem. $10 bill, proof, MB $10
44 Medal in white metal 32mm. honoring Woodrow Wilson. Unknown origin. EF, MB $2
45 Milw token Hoeffler Mfg. Cu-Ni, 20 mm. AU Nice. Made automatic music instr, 1903-28, MB $3
46 Two unc. 38 mm Al Mardi Gras tokens 1971 and 1986, from New Orleans. MB $ 2
47 1863 Civil War Token, Milw, Goes & Falk Malt House Bavaria Brewery. VF-XF dark
48 1928 series Small size $10 Gold Certificate. Yellow seal and numbers. VG. MB $10